

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY E:RPOATS:RVC

APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

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S E C R E T STATE 018839 TOSEC 010247

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: OIL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

1. IN RESPONSE TO HELMS REPORTING OF SHAH'S SUSPICIONS THAT USG WAS STALLING ON BILATERAL OIL AGREEMENT, POSSIBLY WITH EYE TO HIS CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONSORTIUM OIL COMPANIES, I ASKED HELMS TO ASSURE ANSARY THAT OUR DELAY ON OIL AGREEMENT PROPOSAL WAS DUE TO INABILITY TO MEASURE PROBABLE REACTION OF CONGRESS DURING ITS LONG CHRISTMAS RECESS. HELMS REACHED ANSARY JUST AFTER ANSARY'S RETURN FROM SHORT HOSPITALIZATION, AND REPORTED FOLLOWING ANSARY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTION:

2. QUOTE ANSARY WENT OVER WITH ME AGAIN HIS BELIEF THAT SUBQUOTE UNDERSTANDING UNSUBQUOTE HAD BEEN REACHED AT LONDON MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND YOU AND THAT, ALTHOUGH ONE KEY ELEMENT (I.E. DISCOUNT) REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT, TIME SHOULD NOT BE USED NOW FOR ARTICULATION
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OF SUBQUOTE UNDERSTANDING UNSUBQUOTE BUT RATHER EFFORTS

ON BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO DRAFTING THE ARRANGEMENTS TOGETHER. IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE IT AGREED IN LONDON TO DEVELOP JOINT DRAFT, ANSARY FEELS THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD SIT DOWN NOW AND GET ON WITH THE DRAFTING. TO

THIS END HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT HE WILL MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO REST BY HIS DOCTORS. HE GOES TO PARIS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29. IN NEW YORK HE WILL STAY EITHER AT THE WALDORF TOWERS OR IN THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL. HE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR NASSAU ON FEBRUARY 5. HE WILL MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR DRAFTING PURPOSES EITHER IN NEW YORK OR IN NASSAU. END QUOTE

3. I SUSPECT ANSARY'S EAGERNESS TO TALK MAY BE INFLUENCED BY PUBLICATION OF FACT THAT SOVIET OIL DELEGATION DUE IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY FOR OIL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO MAY BE LOOKING FOR REASON TO MAKE NASSAU TRIP.

4. I PROPOSE, IF YOU CONCUR, TO REPLY EARLY MONDAY AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WE STILL FACE PROSPECT OF DELAYS IN WORKING OUT OUR POSITION AND MAY NOT BE READY TO ENGAGE IN DEFINITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN YOU ARE IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, I (ROBINSON) WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET YOU IN NEW YORK DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1. END QUOTE SISCO

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